

good church paper. Parents should certainly desire the very best moral influence in the home, and in this respect nothing can take the place of the church paper. It will not simply carry along with it a religious influence, but will emphasize it by its special interest and influence as the voice of our church. Nothing can take its place in the matter of interesting your children in the church. Do you wish them to be safely gathered in from the world, into the shelter of the fold? Then among the agencies for so important an object, make the church paper a permanent institution in your home.

## Brief Notes

Any one who does less than his best lacks in fidelity.

Said Michael Angelo, "Nothing makes the soul so pure, so religious as the endeavor to create something perfect, for God is perfection, and strives for something that is God-like."

It is too often the case that people must die to be appreciated at their full worth. The empty place reveals the real greatness of the blessing they have been to the world.

There is not a day that is not full of divine meaning, and if our spiritual eyes were but open we could see God move everywhere.

It should be the constant aim of each one of us to be what God wants us to be and to do what God wants us to do.

Why should the Christian struggle for a few thousand dollars when all the riches of the kingdom of heaven are within his reach?

If we would be blest with beautiful refined old age, we need to make preparation for it very early in life.

The poorest business any young man can get into is sowing "wild oats."

Paul says, "Whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap." Now it would not be any of our business what a man sows if only he were willing to reap the harvest himself.

It is a sweet joy in the last moment of our lives to have people say of us, "You have never done us any harm, you have always helped us and treated us kindly."

Jesus said to his disciples, "Come ye apart and rest awhile." They were to rest *with* Jesus not apart from him. Those who take vacations during the summer months will do well to remember these words.

Philips Brooks said, "When you come down from the summits, you do not come away from God. There is no task in life in which you do not need him. The work-bench needs his light as truly as the bloister."

A young lady asked a butcher for a dollar toward paying for a temperance lecture. She didn't expect to get it, but the butcher said: "There's your dollar. I've sold more meat in one day since this town went 'no license' than I used to in a whole week when we had saloons." What better temperance lecture can there be!

There are multitudes of people who have never yet learned the truth of that saying of the Lord Jesus, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." They are in the same position with the little girl whose mother endeavored to explain to her the meaning of the saying, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." She replied, "I hope, mother, there will be many blessed people at Christmas."

With the great majority of people the blessing is altogether in receiving.

A consistent Christian life, one wholly consecrated to the Master, is a more powerful discourse than the most eloquent sermon ever delivered from the pulpit.

The only helpful lives are the unselfish lives, and unselfishness always means sacrifice or outlay of some kind, so that the helpful life is the life of sacrifice.

Once Peter said to the lame man, "Silver and gold have I none." His successor as the Pope claims to be has no need of saying that now as his income is estimated at \$2,000,000 per year, and even this does not satisfy him for he desires the prestige of a temporal kingdom.

The little boy was not far wrong who, when asked what is the first thing toward digestion, answered, "Bite it off." The first step toward the assimilation of the sermons we hear is to bite off a good piece of the advice and exhortation for our personal nourishment, before passing it on to our neighbor in the next pew. Too many hearers fail in this first step, leaving the whole discourse for others.

The athletics of this country are not usually used as illustrations of our high standard of morality, yet recently at the international athletic meeting at the Paris Exposition the American representatives headed by the athletes from the University of Chicago refused to compete in the contests altho they had crossed the ocean for that purpose, because the games were held on Sunday. The Paris managers seem unable to comprehend such scruples but are getting a new insight into the source of the strength of this country. The men who refrained from the contests have better records than those who won. They will return, not with the banners of championship, but with the esteem of all the people who honor strength of character above strength of muscle. Banners for the latter without the glory of the former are little to be desired.

Illinois has one of the best laws ever enacted. It is the simple requirement that foodstuffs be correctly labeled. That is glucose must be labeled "glucose" and not "maple syrup". Baking powder with alum must name the alum. Coffee and chicory must be labeled "coffee and chicory". Whiskey and logwood and copperas and capsicum and nightshade and all the other poisons mixed into liquor and sold for pure whiskey will have to be labeled so as to show the adulteration. Cigarettes soaked in opium or morphine must be so labeled. These latter articles are not food of course, but some of the best efforts of the law will be felt in its applications to them because the profits of the business and the deadly effects of the goods are due largely to the adulterations so notoriously carried on. Thus one step after another is being taken toward temperance in all things. Next!

A prisoner was released from a state penitentiary a few days ago who had been serving a sentence because of murder in a family feud. On being released he immediately returned to the scene of the trouble, again stirred up the feud and committed another murder. He will now go to the gallows or back to the penitentiary where he belongs. The family feud as a mode of revenge belongs to a barbarous past. The savages who resurrect such things in the midst of our Christian civilization deserve to be caged with their kindred, wild beasts. Instead of idleness however, hard work ought to be the lot of convicts so that they be taught useful labor for self-support, and at the same time the good citizens be relieved from the support of the bad.

Some of the papers are discussing the failure of missions in China and others are blaming the missionaries as being the cause of the present horrors. Twice before this the missionaries have gained a good foothold only to be massacred and their work destroyed. Does this prove failure? Of the strong churches planted by the apostles thru-out Asia

Minor scarcely one remains. Christianity stepped from these beginnings to the world power it is today. In China as everywhere it will prove true that "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church". If the missionaries have been able to call the attention of the inert masses of all China to their work who will dare say that their influence is small. If ancient superstition and bigotry struggle in its tottering yet let it totter and fall. All that missions in China have cost in blood and treasure will be amply repaid if, as seems probable, it will result in helping to open the doors of this ancient empire to the influence of Christian civilization.

## Information Bureau

1 Would you advise one, being a member of the Brethren church but living far from any Brethren organization, to unite with some other denomination in worship.

This question has become a serious one with many. The Brethren do not have churches in every village of the country as some denominations do, hence many members become isolated. Just what to do in each case must be determined in detail by each one personally, for no one else knows all the circumstances.

Few people are so bigoted to-day as to refuse utterly to associate in worship or Christian work with anyone outside their own faith. Such passages as Mk. 9:38, 39; John 17:20, 21, and many others preclude such action.

We would suggest that in such cases loyalty to gospel principles (See Titus 2:1; Rom. 6:17; Eph. 4:4, etc.) will in general, require continued allegiance to the church of one's faith. This can be manifested by retaining membership in the nearest Brethren congregation, by contributing to its support and to the various missionary and educational interests of the church. For this offering can be regularly laid aside according to I Cor. 16:2. Above all, the EVANGELIST should be in the home, as it, more than anything else, will keep you in touch with the brotherhood. You can and should also make use of Brethren tracts among your unconverted neighbors, and like the early church when scattered abroad, be "preaching everywhere." If there be need of another church in the community keep the matter before the nearest Brethren congregation and mission board with a view to the establishment of a church there.

All this need not prevent your worshipping with some other congregation near you or even helping, teaching in the Sunday-school, etc., etc.

In short be loyal to gospel principles. Keep your home among Brethren people if possible, but if not, then at least keep your touch with them and at the same time help the kingdom in all the ways that you can. Regard yourself not as a poor, starving, isolated, helpless sheep, but as a strong missionary sent by the church to stand for Christ and his gospel wherever you are.

2 What did Jesus mean by becoming "as little children" in order to enter the kingdom of heaven?

Jesus, just as we to-day, used illustrations to enforce a single point. Having gotten this truth from the illustration or parable we are not to press it in other points.

Jesus did not mean that we are to imitate children in all things because children in their lack of self-control, in their wilfulness and selfishness and in all the animal passions which crop out, are far from being the types of the kingdom. Their innocence does not consist in actual loveliness of disposition but in lack of wilful wrong because they know no better. But being in this condition they are teachable, frank, full of faith and ready to obey implicitly their parents or teachers. It is this latter characteristic that is essential to the one who would enter the kingdom. We must not trust in our righteousness but putting it aside seek humbly the teaching of our Master and yield willing obedience to the will of our Father, and thus will we be led on to true righteousness thru "faith which worketh by love."